

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

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1-13. (Canceled)

14. (Currently Amended) A method of making a woven or knitted fabric having corresponding color contrast and surface geometry contrast between first regions and second regions in the fabric, said method comprising:

(a) providing a polyester fabric, said fabric having yarns forming a pile, said first pile having a first pile height, said fabric having first regions and second regions;

(b) applying an unfixed providing dye to said pile in an unfixed state into said yarns of said fabric;

(c) drying said fabric produced in step (b) by application of electromagnetic radio frequency energy to the fabric, said drying step being performed under conditions sufficient to at least partially dry said fabric but without fixing a substantial portion of said unfixed dye to said pile of said fabric,

(d) selectively applying a chemical etching agent to said pile of etching said fabric, said agent being an alkaline paste applied to one or more second regions of said pile of the fabric and not applied to the first regions of the fabric upon said pile in a predetermined pattern by applying to said pile of said second regions a yarn-degrading composition, said yarn-degrading composition being effective to degrade yarns in said second regions, thereby forming in said second regions yarns having a second pile height; and

(e) reacting the chemical etching agent with one or more second regions of the pile of the fabric, thereby etching the yarns or fibers in the one or more second regions to produce yarns or fibers having a second height, the second height being less than the first height;

(f) heating the fabric resulting from step (e) in a superheated steamer to fix the dye to the yarns or fibers in the first and second regions of the pile of the fabric, wherein the heating temperature is about 180 degrees C;

(g) drying the fabric at elevated temperature;

(h) thereby producing a fabric having a pile on a surface thereof with yarns of the second region exhibiting a different dyed color than yarns or fibers of the first region;

(e) ~~fixing said dye in said first and second regions;~~

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(i) thereby forming a fabric having first regions of a first pile height and second regions of a second pile height, said second pile height being less than said first pile height and each of said respective regions having respective first and second ΔL^* values, and the difference between the first generating a substantial color contrast which provides a predetermined positive ΔL^* value and the second ΔL^* value is equal to about 10% or more of the total first ΔL^* value. differential between said first regions and said second regions.

15. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 14 wherein said color contrast ΔL^* value is at least about 25 percent difference in color contrast between said first and second regions.

16 -21. (Canceled)

22. (Currently Amended) A method for making a fabric having regions exhibiting different pile heights and a color contrast between said regions exhibiting different pile height, the method comprising the steps of:

(a) providing a polyester fabric having a pile on at least one side thereof, said pile comprising a plurality of yarns or fibers having a first height,

(b) applying in an aqueous process an unfixed dye to said pile of said fabric,

(c) drying said fabric produced in step (b) by application of electromagnetic radio frequency energy to the fabric, said drying step being performed under conditions sufficient to at least partially dry said fabric but without fixing a substantial portion of said unfixed dye to said pile of said fabric,

(d) selectively applying a chemical etching agent to said pile of said fabric, said chemical etching agent being an alkaline paste, the agent being applied to one or more second regions of said pile of said fabric and not applied to one or more first regions of said pile of said fabric,

(e) reacting said chemical etching agent with said one or more second regions of said pile of said fabric, thereby etching said yarns or fibers in said one or more second regions to produce yarns or fibers having a second height, said second height being less than said first height, and

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(f) heating said fabric produced in step (e) in a superheated steamer to fix said dye to said yarns or fibers in said first and second regions of said pile of said fabric, said heating temperature being at least about 180 degrees C;

(g) washing the fabric to remove residual chemical etching agent and unfixed dye remaining on the fabric; and

(h) drying the fabric at elevated temperature;

(i) thereby producing a fabric having a pile on a surface thereof, said pile comprising a plurality of yarns or fibers in one or more first regions having a first height and one or more second regions having a second height, said second height being less than said first height, and said yarns or fibers in said second region exhibiting a different color than said yarns or fibers in said first region;

(j) wherein the yarns or fibers in the first region exhibit a first L* value, the yarns or fibers in the second region exhibit a second L* value, and the difference between the first L* value and the second L* value is equal to about 10% or more of the first L* value.

23-25 (Canceled).